

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A container, comprising:  
a container body defining a top opening, a sealing surface being defined on the  
5 container body encircling the top opening; and  
a closure sealed to the sealing surface by a heat-seal material comprising a blend  
of first and second acidic ionomers having respectively higher and lower acid content  
such that the heat-seal material has an acid content intermediate between that of the first  
and second ionomers.
- 10 2. The container of claim 1, further comprising a ring-shaped end member  
attached to the container body encircling the top opening, the sealing surface being  
defined by the end member.
3. The container of claim 2, wherein the end member comprises metal.
- 15 4. The container of claim 1, wherein the first ionomer has an acid content of  
about 15% by weight and the heat-seal material has an acid content of about 11% by  
weight.
5. The container of claim 1, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of  
ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized  
with a cation.
- 20 6. The container of claim 1, wherein the second ionomer comprises a copolymer  
of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a  
cation.
- 25 7. The container of claim 1, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of  
ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized  
with a cation and the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid  
wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

8. The container of claim 7, wherein the first and second ionomers are present in approximately equal proportions by weight in the heat-seal material.

9. A container, comprising:  
a container body defining a top opening, a sealing surface being defined on the  
5 container body encircling the top opening; and  
a closure sealed to the sealing surface by a heat-seal material comprising an acidic ionomer having an acid content of about 11% by weight.

10. A container, comprising:  
a container body defining a top opening;  
10 a metal end attached to the container body encircling the top opening; and  
a membrane closure sealed to the metal end by a heat-seal material comprising a blend of first and second acidic ionomers having respectively higher and lower acid content such that the heat-seal material has an acid content intermediate between that of the first and second ionomers.

15 11. A closure assembly for a container, comprising:  
a ring-shaped end member having a curl portion configured to be attached to a flange of a container by double-seaming, the end member further comprising a portion located radially inwardly from the curl portion and defining a sealing surface; and  
a flexible membrane closure configured to attach to the ring-shaped end member;  
20 wherein each of the end member and the closure has a heat-seal material disposed thereon for attaching the closure to the end member by heat-sealing, the heat-seal material comprising a blend of first and second acidic ionomers having respectively higher and lower acid content such that the heat-seal material has an acid content intermediate between that of the first and second ionomers.

25 12. The closure assembly of claim 11, wherein the first ionomer has an acid content of about 15% by weight and the heat-seal material has an acid content of about 11% by weight.

13. The closure assembly of claim 11, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

14. The closure assembly of claim 11, wherein the second ionomer comprises a  
5 copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

15. The closure assembly of claim 11, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation and the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and  
10 acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

16. A member for a closure assembly of a container, comprising:  
a ring-shaped end member having a curl portion configured to be attached to a flange of a container by double-seaming, the end member further comprising a portion located radially inwardly from the curl portion and defining a sealing surface, and a heat-  
15 seal material disposed on the sealing surface for attaching a membrane closure to the end member by heat-sealing, the heat-seal material comprising a blend of first and second acidic ionomers having respectively higher and lower acid content such that the heat-seal material has an acid content intermediate between that of the first and second ionomers.

17. The member of claim 16, wherein the first ionomer has an acid content of  
20 about 15% by weight and the heat-seal material has an acid content of about 11% by weight.

18. The member of claim 16, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

19. The member of claim 16, wherein the second ionomer comprises a copolymer  
25 of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

20. The member of claim 16, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation and the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

5           21. A flexible membrane closure for a container, comprising:  
at least one structural layer of flexible material; and  
a heat-seal material joined to the at least one structural layer and exposed at one  
surface of the closure for heat-sealing to a sealing surface provided on a container, the  
heat-seal material comprising a blend of first and second acidic ionomers having  
10       respectively higher and lower acid content such that the heat-seal material has an acid  
content intermediate between that of the first and second ionomers.

22. The flexible membrane closure of claim 21, wherein the first ionomer has an acid content of about 15% by weight and the heat-seal material has an acid content of about 11% by weight.

15           23. The flexible membrane closure of claim 21, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

24. The flexible membrane closure of claim 21, wherein the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are  
20       partially neutralized with a cation.

25. The flexible membrane closure of claim 21, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation and the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a  
25       cation.